LISHED IN AMSTERDAM, IN 1678. THE SHORT TEXT IS ILLUSTRATED WITH A BLACK AND WHITE PLATE. VON RHEEDE DOES NOT CALL THIS SPECIES ROSA-SINENSIS, BUT REFERS TO IT AS "SCHEM-PARITI" ALTHOUGH HE DOES MENTION AND DESCRIBE ANOTHER SPECIES UNDER THE NAME OF CHINESE ROSE. THIS DESCRIPTION IS SHORT AND NOT CLEAR, BUT THE PLANT WHICH HE CALLS CHINESE ROSE MIGHT WELL HAVE BEEN THE H. MUTABILIS OR CHANGEABLE ROSE MALLOW OF TODAY, A POPULAR PLANT IN MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD. IT IS SOMETIMES CALLED CONFEDERATE ROSE IN THE SOUTH. THE VON RHEEDE DESCRIPTION OF ANOTHER SPECIES INDICATES THAT IT WAS ROSE RED IN COLOR AND IN FORM WAS VERY MUCH LIKE THE DOUBLE RED INTRODUCED INTO ENGLAND NEARLY 150 YEARS LATER.

THE NEXT MENTION OF HIBISCUS IS IN RHUMPHIUS' "HERBARIUM AMBOINIENSIS" PUBLISHED IN 1743. THIS REFERENCE IS ALSO ILLUSTRATED WITH A BLACK AND WHITE PLATE, ALMOST IDENTICAL WITH THE ONE FROM VON RHEEDE. HE ALSO MENTIONS A DOUBLE WHITE, ALTHOUGH HE DOES NOT DESCRIBE IT. THE TEXT HAS MUCH TO SAY ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PLANT FOR HOUSE HOLD USES. WOMEN OF THE DAY USED THE CRUSHED FLOWERS AS AN EYEBROW AND HAIR DYE, AND MEN FOUND THEM TO BE EXCELLENT FOR SHINING BLACK SHOES. IN FACT, THE EARLY PORTUGESE SETTLERS IN INDIA CALLED THE HIBISCUS "FULA SAPATO" AND ADOPTED IT AS A SHOE BLACK. IN SOUTHERN CHINA, THE HIBISCUS WAS GIVEN CERTAIN MEDICINAL PROPERTIES AND IN OTHER AREAS THE FLOWERS WERE USED TO TINGE SPIRITS OF WINE A RED COLOR, OR BY THE ADDITION OF ALUM, TO A BEAUTIFUL VIOLET.

BOTH VON RHEEDE AND RHUMPHIUS ANTEDATE LINNAEUS. HOWEVER, FOR SOME TIME AFTER LINNAEUS BROUGHT THE SPECIES AND THE NAME ROSA-SINENSIS TOGETHER, PUBLISHED HORTICULTURAL WORKS STILL REFERRED TO H. MUTABILIS



AS ROSA-SINENSIS; EVEN SUCH A WELL KNOWN PLANTSMAN AS PHILLIP MILLER, DIRECTOR OF THE CHELSEA BOTANICAL GARDEN, CREDITED WITH BEING THE FIRST TO GROW HIBISCUS IN ENGLAND, DID NOT FOLLOW LINNAEUS. HIS "GARDENERS DICTIONARY", PUBLISHED IN 1763, DESCRIBES 22 SPECIES OF HIBISCUS THEN GROWING IN THE CHELSEA GARDEN, BUT AMONG THEM ONLY ONE THAT IS NOW IN THE CLOSELY RELATED GROUP CALLED ROSA-SINENSIS. THIS IS THE DOUBLE RED, DESCRIBED BY VON RHEEDE, AS DISCUSSED ABOVE.

THE FIRST REPRODUCTION OF THE ROSA-SINENSIS IN COLOR THAT I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO FIND IS A PLATE FROM CURTIS' BOTANICAL MAGAZINE, PUBLISHED IN VOL. 5, 1791. THIS COULD BE OUR BRILLIANT OR COMMON RED, NOW HAVING WORLD-WIDE DISTRIBUTION.

DURING THE 1820'S, COLORED PLATES OF ROSA-SINENSIS APPEARED MORE FREQUENTLY IN HORTICULTURAL PUBLICATIONS. THE DOUBLE RED WAS AGAIN DESCRIBED IN 1824, IN VOL. 10 OF THE BOTANICAL CABINET. SOME OF YOU WILL RECOGNIZE THIS AS BEING VERY MUCH LIKE THE OLD VARIETY WHICH IS KNOWN AS LAMBERTI, AND IS STILL QUITE COMMON IN TEXAS AND FLORIDA. ANOTHER VARIETY ALSO APPEARED IN VOL. 10 OF THE BOTANICAL CABINET, AND IS CALLED ROSA-SINENSIS FLAVA, OR BUFF COLORED. THIS IS WHAT WE WOULD NOW CALL A PEONY FLOWERED DOUBLE, AND IT HAS A TOUCH OF RED IN THE THROAT. THE TEXT SAYS THAT THIS VARIETY WAS INTRODUCED FROM CHINA. I HAVE SEEN A DOUBLE MUCH LIKE IT IN OLD COLLECTIONS IN HAWAII AND IN FLORIDA.

THE SAME VOLUME OF BOTANICAL CABINET CARRIES A PLATE DESCRIBED AS BEING ROSA-SINENSIS LUTEA, OR DEEP YELLOW. THE TEXT STATES THAT "DIFFERENT VARIETIES OF THIS SPLENDID PLANT ARE CULTIVATED IN INDIA AND CHINA" AND THAT "THIS VARIETY WAS INTRODUCED IN ENGLAND BY THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIE-